A Benefit Concert for AIDS Ministry within the Northeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Singing for our Lives

Featuring

The Rochester Freedom Singers
Rochester Gay Men's Chorus
Rochester Women's Community Chorus
John Bodinger, organist
Dresden D. Engle, soloist

Saturday, November 6, 1993
8:00 p.m.

Downtown United Presbyterian Church
121 North Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, New York

WELCOME to "Singing for our Lives," a benefit concert for AIDS ministry within the Northeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are pleased you are here and are confident you will enjoy the music presented this evening. It is especially exciting for us to have the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, the Rochester Women's Community Chorus and the Rochester Freedom Singers together in one place and in one evening for one concert—a Rochester first.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is an international denomination of Christian churches comprised primarily of and ministering to gay men and lesbians. Our exciting message of the all-embracing love of God has brought thousands of gays and lesbians into our family.

The Northeast District is a geographical designation denoting all Metropolitan Community Churches in the New England states and the state of New York. Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, the local congregation and host of this year's District Conference, is part of the Northeast District. During the conference congregational delegates and members from all over our Northeast District gather for educational programs, sharing and conducting of business.

In recent years, the AIDS Ministry Benefit Concert has become a regular part of this annual conference. All profits from the concert are given as grants to local Metropolitan Community Churches for their specific AIDS ministry. Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church received such a grant from the proceeds of the 1992 benefit concert. This grant enables Open Arms, for example, to assist HIV+/persons with AIDS (PWAs) and their immediate families to cope with their financial crisis. Another congregation, Metropolitan Community Church - New York City, was given a grant for translating and printing a Spanish edition of a coloring book they created for children of PWAs.

We're very proud of the AIDS ministries supported through the proceeds of our annual benefit concert. Our deepest gratitude goes to you attending this concert which will enable further AIDS ministry through the Metropolitan Community Churches of the Northeast District. Thanks so very much!

MARCELLA

Master of Ceremonies

Marcella (Joseph Guagliardo) is owner of Galaxy Hair and MLT Productions (Mr. and Miss Gay Rochester). Joe has been a female impersonator for 12 years. He was Miss Rochester 1985 and 1986 and has held many other titles. Joe appeared on Brother Wease's TV show where he was "The Fashion Police." Joe has also appeared on the TV show "Changes." Joe has done a lot for the gay community including M.C. of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley (GAGV) Auction and many AIDS fundraisers over the years. Joe is presently single and looking.

ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Music Director, N. M. Williams
Principal Accompanist, Keith Waters
Artistic Interpreter, Brian W. Ambrose
Producer, Aerevyn Harteis

Wolcome Yole! — Benjamin Britten
from "A Ceremony of Carols"

Siyahamba — Zulu Song
drums: Rodney Raske & Peter Milliken — ed. Doreen Rao

Alleluja! — Johann Sebastian Bach
Choral from Cantata No. 142 — arr. Gwynn S. Bement

Now I Walk In Beauty — Native American

Yonder Comes Day — Bessie Smith

Diversity — Scott Henderson
commissioned for Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles — Bob Daggett

Betelehemu — Via Olatunji
drums: Rodney Raske & Peter Milliken — arr. Wendell Whalum

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Mission Statement

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, by nurturing pride in and acceptance of the diversity of our communities, creates social change through excellence in the choral arts.

ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

1st Tenors
David A. Anderson
Alan David
Tom Douglas*
David D. Emert
David M. Skinner
Ed Whitmore
David B. Wilson

2nd Tenors
Mike Flaherty
John McIntyre*
John Owen
Steven M. Price
Robert Titus
Cyril R. Waugh
John Wallwork

Baritones
John DiPrima
Peter House
David C. Knoll
Mike McManus
Jonathan Millis
Bob Parsons*
Robert L. Stear
Bill Thompson

Basses
Carl Crossgrove
David A. Dolan
Neil D. Houghton
Gary C. Keleher*
Pat Moran
Jon P. Templin
Mark J. VanOrder

*denotes section leader

Nick Williams begins his ninth year as Music Director of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC) with this evening's performance. He has served RGMC as Director, Assistant Director, singer and member of the tap dancing Rochettes. Under his leadership the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus has grown into one of the most respected small men's choruses in North America. Nick received his training at The Crane School of Music and the Eastman School of Music. He has traveled the country taking classes in conducting and vocal pedagogy with Brock McElheran, Donald Neuen, Allen Crowell and Constintina Tszlianou. He has studied voice with Cecile Saine, Thaxter Cunio, Christopher Jones and David MacFarland. Nick served three years on the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) national board of directors and remains active in the organization. He was instrumental in compiling GALA's handbook on how to organize and structure a chorus. Nick teaches high school vocal music and lives in Rochester with his three cats.

Keith Waters, Principal Accompanist of the Chorus, began playing piano professionally at the age of sixteen. After receiving a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1985, he divided his time between Washington, D.C. and New York City. He has performed throughout the United States, Europe and in the Soviet Union and has appeared with jazz artists James Moody, Clark Terry,

Eddie Daniels, Zoot Sims, Eddie Harris, Chris Connor, Sheila Jordan, Bobby Hutcherson, Buck Hill, Meredith D'Ambrosia, Miroslav Vitous, Jimmy Guiffre, Herbie Mann, Red Skelton, and the Four Aces. In addition, he is the pianist and arranger for the recording "Passing By" by vocalist Iris Benjamin on Indigo Records. Currently Keith is at the Eastman School of Music where he teaches and is working on a doctoral degree in Music Theory.

Artistic Interpreter **Brian W. Ambrose** has been a full time freelance interpreter in the Rochester area for the past four years. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Nazareth College in Speech Pathology. Brian is an adjunct faculty member of Genesee Community College where he teaches sign at both the Batavia and Albion campuses. In addition to freelance interpreting, he recently worked with the SUNY Brockport productions of *Cabaret* and *Our Town*. At Nazareth College he interprets for the Children's Theatre productions. Brian was delighted to interpret for The Flirtations and he recently appeared with Connie Deming in a two person show entitled "Poetry in Motion" at Writers and Books. Brian's most recent interpreting engagement was for Ryan White's mother when she spoke in Rochester on November 5 for a Community Health Network/AIDS Rochester event.

Rodney Raske, guest percussionist for RGMC, has studied drumming for eight years. He has worked with and trained under various master drummers in African, Afro-Cuban and Latin traditions including M'baye Diegne from Senegal. Rod has conducted workshops and seminars throughout western New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. He performed for the athletes at the World University Games in Buffalo in July of this year and provided percussion for several of master illusionist Jeff McBride's performances. Rod currently resides in Buffalo with two (very strange) roommates and a cat named Bob. Rod is co-founder (with an unnamed goddess) of the "clan of pi-i-ig."

About the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus meets Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh Street. The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, Inc. is a non-profit-tax-exempt corporation and may be contacted at 121 North Fitzhugh Street, Suite 433, Rochester, NY 14614-1214. For up-to-date information about Chorus performances please call The Chorus Line at (716) 423-0650.

Formed in 1982, RGMC is a community chorus of thirty-five singing and non-singing gay and gay friendly individuals. The Chorus belongs

to the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses sending representatives to GALA's first international choral festival in New York City in 1983. Two years later the Rochester Chamber of Commerce rented RGMC concert space for their first pops concert, a major breakthrough for a local gay organization. In 1986 the Chorus traveled to Minneapolis for GALA Festival II where they introduced the use of sign language in their signature piece, *Kumbaya*. 1987 saw three firsts: their first exchange concert with another chorus (Detroit Together), their first guest soloist (Cecile Saine), and their first grant from the New York State Council on the Arts through Arts for Greater Rochester. In 1988 RGMC was the first small chorus to host a GALA leadership conference, establishing the tradition that the yearly conference would turn a profit for the international organization. 1988 also marked their first invitation to perform at Rochester's annual Festival of Lilacs. Travel to the west coast highlighted 1989 including a joint performance in Vancouver with choruses from Washington, D.C. and Toronto. The four choruses then motored to GALA Festival III in Seattle. In 1991 RGMC performed a sold-out concert at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse. Based on the excitement generated by RGMC's performance, a new gay and lesbian chorus has formed in Syracuse. 1992 Chorus performances focused on outreach to area college campuses at Cortland and Batavia. In June 1992 RGMC traveled to Denver to perform in GALA Festival IV. A portion of the program included *Cradle Song* by Rochester composer David Diamond, commissioned in part with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. It was with great pride that in June 1993 RGMC celebrated its tenth anniversary season with full orchestra and soloist in the Brahms *Alto Rhapsody* at the Hochstein Music School. RGMC is proud to continue this decade long tradition of firsts: if tonight's event is a first for *you*, RGMC wishes you many more.

JOHN BODINGER

Organist

Five Dances — Calvin Hampton*
1. The Primitives — (1938-1984)

Pastorale and Toccata — David Conte (b. 1955)

A native of California, **John Bodinger** began organ study at the age of 12 as a student of Edgar Billups. By age 15, he was appointed assistant organist-choirmaster at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, San Diego. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of California, San Diego in 1986, receiving Departmental Honors in Music with Highest

*Calvin Hampton died of AIDS in 1984.

Distinction. From 1984-1986, John served as a teaching assistant in Music Theory at UCSD.

John earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music in 1991 where he also received his Master's degree in 1989 and the Performer's Certificate in 1988. During his tenure at Eastman, he served as teaching assistant to Russell Saunders from 1987 to 1991, and as Director of Music and Organist at Christ Episcopal Church from 1989 to 1991.

John has also earned awards in several organ competitions: he was a finalist in the Arthur Poister National Organ Competition (Syracuse, NY, 1989), placed second in the Luther Place Memorial Organ Competition (Washington, DC, 1989) and also placed second in the Far West Regional Competition of the National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance (San Jose, CA, 1989). Most recently, John was awarded first prize in the Arthur Poister National Organ Competition (April 1992).

John currently serves as Director of Music and Organist at Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester and has been appointed to the faculty of the Community Education Division of the Eastman School of Music. John is a member of the Young Organists' Cooperative.

ROCHESTER WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHORUS

Music Director, Deborah Wachpress
Accompanist, Beth Neely
Artistic Interpreter, Sharlene McDowell

There Comes A Time	Connie Kaldor
It's Bad For Me	Roches
Sun and Moon	C. Schonberg

ROCHESTER WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHORUS

and the

ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Everything Possible	Fred Small

ROCHESTER WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHORUS

Mission Statement

RWCC was founded to bring music to the community of Rochester. It is dedicated to being a high-quality musical group that provides a vehicle for communicating a message of peace, understanding and non-oppression. RWCC supports human rights for the benefit of all. Performances and rehearsals are accessible to the hearing-impaired and differently-abled. RWCC does not discriminate in its membership on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or political affiliation; however, the performing (vocal) aspect of the chorus is to be made of women only. In all other aspects, RWCC welcomes support from both men and women. RWCC seeks to bring its music to the general population, including gay and gay-supportive organizations, women's groups, political organizations and the women's community. RWCC reserves the right to decline invitations to perform at functions or events that RWCC deems prejudicial or discriminatory in nature or which contradict the philosophy of RWCC.

Soprano I
Mary Buggie-Hunt
Lisa McCollum
Kitty Moran
Carmen Wynd

Soprano II
Mary Ellen Ford
Terry Keister
Connie Prunoske
Carey Ruffle

Alto I
Tabitha Buggie-Hunt
Roza Eisenman
Jan Metcalf
Kathy Pawlaczyk
Kathy Sisson

Alto II
Jessica Angie
Laura Bollinger
Ann Grattan
Helen E. Gray
Audrey Merkel
Katherine M. Sanger

Deborah Wachpress (Music Director) has been involved with the Rochester Women's Community Chorus since 1979. She graduated from Crane School of Music in 1979 with a Bachelor of Music Education degree and received a Master's degree in education from SUNY Geneseo in 1984. She has taught vocal and instrumental music in the City of Rochester for 14 years. Her major instruments are piano and oboe. Deborah loves working with the Women's Chorus and has enjoyed some fabulous experiences with the group.

Beth Neely (Accompanist) says "It's great to be here with the Rochester Women's Chorus!" Beth is currently pursuing part-time Master's work in piano performance at the Eastman School of Music. She was an English major in her undergraduate years.

INTERMISSION

DRESDEN D. ENGLE

Soloist

Artistic Interpreter, Brian W. Ambrose

Nothing from *A Chorus Line*	Marvin Hamlisch
Where the Boys Are	Neil Sedaka
Wind Beneath My Wings	Larry Henley and Jeff Silbar
Empty Chairs and Empty Tables from *Les Miserables*	Claude-Michel Schonberg

Dresden D. Engle holds a theater and journalism degree from SUNY Oswego. She most recently appeared with Masque Enterprises at Rochester Plaza's dinner theater in the spring in *Johnny Roma's Presents the Starlettes*. She wrote the script for the current Masque production at the Rochester Plaza, *Beyond Rainbows*, which depicts the life of Judy Garland. In addition to theater, she also had her own rock band in Rochester called "Dresden." Formerly with The Brighton-Pittsford Post, Dresden is currently a reporter with The Daily Messenger in Canandaigua. She says she was first affected by the reality of AIDS when it took both Joseph Papp and Michael Bennett, who created her favorite musical, *A Chorus Line*.

George Husson (Accompanist) is Adult Choir director and sometimes organist at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Brighton as well as Music Director for Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church in Rochester. He is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's degree in printing management and technology. In his spare time, George works at Eastman Kodak Company troubleshooting PC hardware and software.

ROCHESTER FREEDOM SINGERS

Music Director, Dr. Theodore F. Ashizawa
Accompanist, Cecilia Sun
Artistic Interpreter, Brian W. Ambrose

Jubilate Deo	Orlando deLasso
Shalom Rav Bill Coleman, tenor soloist	Ben Steinberg
Soon Ah Will Be Done	William Dawson
This We Know Text by Chief Seattle	Ron Jeffers arr. T. Ashizawa

Piano Solo by Cecilia Sun:

Prelude in E flat minor from Well-Tempered Clavier, Book #1	J. S. Bach
Down By The Riverside	American Spiritual arr. J. Kern
I've Been 'Buked and Scorned	Negro Spiritual arr. Johnson
In This Very Room	Ron and Carol Harris

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Mission Statement

The Rochester Freedom Singers were formed during the fall of 1992 by a group of people brought together by the love of music and their dedication to the ideals of tolerance, understanding, equality and love.

We sing with the hope that our music will contribute to a greater understanding and acceptance of the diversity that is the beauty of humanity.

ROCHESTER FREEDOM SINGERS

Soprano
Scott Coleman
Bonnie Eskildsen
Tawn Feeney
Katia Iannacome
Janis Keefe
Pat Nowicki
Denise Spadaccia*
Christine Weiss

Alto
Jodi Cohen
Susan David
Diane Elmer*
Kelley Kreilick Jones
Michele Mandina
Patty Polcyn
Jennifer Randell
Lynn Rust

Tenor
Richard Cann
Bill Coleman
Michael Lee
Eugenia Martin
Norris Minard
Lew Ojeda
Ken Setera
Bill Thompson
John B. White*

Bass
Mark Eckstein*
Henry Jones
Francis Keefe
Larry Mancine
Matt Murray
Dan Ocampo
Steven Randell
Craig Sellers*
John A. Strand

*Section Representative

Dr. Theodore F. Ashizawa (Music Director) is also the founder and conductor of the Genesee Chorale and Ars Nova Singers. A native of San Francisco, California, he holds Bachelor and Masters degrees from San Jose State. He received the prestigious Frank Damrosch Prize in Choral Conducting. He joined the faculty of Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York and soon after received his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Washington. Dr. Ashizawa was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching by the State University of New York in 1976.

Cecilia Sun (Accompanist) was born in Hong Kong and has made her home in Perth, Australia since 1984. She graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from the Western Australian Conservatorium of Music studying with Eastman graduate Dr. John Roberts. She is now studying on a Fulbright scholarship with Professor Barry Snyder at the Eastman School of Music.

SINGING FOR OUR LIVES

Words and Music by Holly Near

Holly says " . . . I wrote this song after Supervisor Harvey Milk was murdered along with Mayor George Moscone in San Francisco. Harvey was a gay man who believed in coalition and unity."

We have chosen the title of Holly's song as the theme of this concert. Many people have come here tonight and shared something they love to do--sing--with each of us. They *are* singing, and you have paid your $10 tonight, to raise money for AIDS ministry. AIDS has touched many of us personally in some way so in our fight for unity let's continue to sing and to find ways to make a better life for our brothers and sisters living with AIDS/HIV. Please join us in singing--for our lives!

We are a gentle angry people
and we are singing, singing for our lives.
We are a gentle angry people,
and we are singing, singing for our lives.

We are gay and straight together . . .

We are a many colored rainbow . . .

We are young and old together . . .

We are diversely abled people . . .

We are a gentle, loving people . . . .

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RECEPTION

A coffee and cookie reception immediately follows tonight's concert. The reception will be held at the Back Dining Room which is located on the second floor. Please join us.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many individuals and businesses have supported us to make tonight's concert a success. We have tried to include the names of everyone who has assisted us; if we have forgotten anyone, we apologize.

DOWNTOWN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GAIL RICCIUTI & SHELLY GONZALES

SILKWOOD BOOKS

ROCHESTER CUSTOM LEATHERS

JIM SEWARD

BUSINESSES WHO HAVE DONATED COOKIES
AND ALLOWED US TO HANG POSTERS

ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT'S CONCERT

OUR AUDIENCE

PRODUCTION STAFF

Chairman, District Conference
Volunteer Committee ..... Michael L. Bamrick

Chairman, Singing for our Lives Concert ..... George Husson

Stage Manager ..... Dale Brown

Chairman, Tickets ..... Phil Darrow

Volunteers:

Marlene Conti
Barb Crabtree
Matt Dilworth
Trish Halifax
John Herman
Donna Johnson
Terry Keister
Bud Minard
Bill VanTassell
John White

CHORUS AFFILIATIONS

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, the Rochester Women's Community Chorus and the Rochester Freedom Singers are members of **GALA Choruses** (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses), an international alliance of over 115 men's, women's and mixed choruses dedicated to providing leadership and inspiration to the lesbian and gay movement through excellence in the choral arts. GALA Choruses produces a choral festival every four years, with the next in Tampa in 1996. GALA Choruses also plans annual conferences for directors and managers, addresses problems of mutual concern, and assists with the sharing of music holdings. The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus and the Rochester Women's Community Chorus co-hosted the annual GALA leadership conference in 1988.

The Rochester Women's Community Chorus is a member of **The Sister Singer Network**. The Sister Singer Network, founded in the early 1980s, is an association of over 40 women's choruses and several dozen composers from the USA as well as Canada and England. The Network provides a directory of composers and women's choruses, and gives its members the opportunity to share music and singing. The Network also holds choral festivals.

NOTES, AUTOGRAPHS, RAMBLINGS . . .